

YUKON-NORTHERN AREA

PROPOSAL F2003-2

Existing regulation: Yukon River drainage

§____.27(i)(3)(i) *Unless otherwise restricted in this section, you may take fish in the Yukon-Northern Area at any time.*

Proposed regulation:

§____.27(i)(3)(i) *Unless otherwise restricted in this section, you may take fish in the Yukon-Northern Area at any time. **You may subsistence fish for salmon with a rod and reel in Yukon River tributaries 24 hours per day and 7 days per week unless specifically restricted by this section ____.***27(i)(3).

Reason for changing the regulation: To provide a subsistence priority, allow subsistence fishing for Yukon River salmon with rod and reel in the tributaries at times when subsistence fishing schedules otherwise restrict fishing. In the Yukon River drainage, there have been times when sport fishing has been allowed 24/7 while subsistence rod and reel fishermen have been limited to specific schedules, such as 3 days a week in the lower Yukon.

Effect of change on fish or shellfish populations: Subsistence salmon harvests by rod and reel are very small and normally are limited to a few fish taken for a meal while people are camping or moose hunting on the tributaries.

Effect of change on subsistence users: It would provide a subsistence priority on Federal lands by allowing subsistence rod and reel fishermen to fish at the same times that sport fishermen are allowed to fish. Subsistence fishermen could get a fish for dinner with rod and reel while at camp even if subsistence fishing on the mainstem with gillnets and fishwheels was on a subsistence schedule (e.g., 3 days/week.)

Additional Information: On the Kuskokwim, the subsistence schedule applies only to gillnets and fishwheels, while on the Yukon, the subsistence schedule applies to all gear types.

Proposed by: Arthur Lake, AVCP, Bethel